

Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS NSF OSTP

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR FR
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: PIERRE AIGRAIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RESEARCH

1. PIERRE AIGRAIN WAS APPOINTED TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RESEARCH IN APRIL 1978. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC DATA: AIGRAIN WAS BORN AT POITIERS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1924. HE RECEIVED DIPLOMAS FROM THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE ECOLE NAVALE AND WAS A DOCTOR OF SCIENCE PARIS FACULTY OF SCIENCE. FROM 1948 TO 1950 HE WORKED AT THE FRENCH NAVAL STUDY AND RESEARCH CENTER. FROM 1950-51 HE WAS AN ASSISTANT AT THE COLLEGE DE FRANCE. FROM 1951 TO 1952 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE AT LILLE. IN 1953 HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL AND NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE FRENCH PHYSICAL SOCIETY, BECOMING SECRETARY GENERAL IN 1959. FROM 1958 TO 1965 HE WAS A PROFESSOR AT THE PARIS FACULTY OF SCIENCE, CHAIR OF GENERAL ELECTROTECHNICS. FROM 1961 TO 1965 HE WAS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR AT THE DIRECTION FOR RESEARCH AND TESTING METHODS (DRME). IN 1965 HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED STUDIES, MINISTRY OF

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EDUCATION. IN 1968 HE BECAME GENERAL DELEGATE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. IN 1973 HE WAS A VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. IN 1974 HE WAS GENERAL TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AT THOMSON-BRANDT IN PARIS. IN 1976 HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY AT OECD. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN

ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND A FELLOW OF THE
INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS.

2. COMMENT: AIGRAIN IS WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY
SCIENCE OFFICE. HE IS VERY MUCH AMERICAN ORIENTED.
HE IS FIRST A SCIENTIST AND SECOND AN ABLE BUREAUCRAT
AND WILL SEEK TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF HIS MANY
CONTACTS IN THE US TO HELP IMPROVE THE VITALITY AND
CAPABILITIES OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS.
HE HAS THE PERSONAL RESPECT OF PRESIDENT GISCARD AND
WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE SOME INTERESTING DEBATES BETWEEN
HIM AND OTHER MINISTERS, FOR EXAMPLE THE MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY, IF THE PRINCIPALS DO NOT SEE EYE-TO-EYE
ON POLICY DECISIONS.
HARTMAN

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